

REMARKS

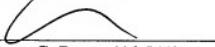
This Response is made in reply to the non-final office action mailed February 22, 2008. Claims 1-19 are pending in this application. Claims 1 and 9 have been withdrawn. Claims 2-8 and 10-19 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102 and §103. Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections. The Director is authorized to charge any fees which may be required, or to credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-1818. If such a withdrawal is made, please indicate the Attorney Docket No. 112857-453 on the account statement.

In the Office Action, claims 2-4, 6-8, 10-12, and 14-19 are rejected under §102(e) as anticipated by US 2004/0224231 (“*Fujimoto*”). Claims 2-4, 6-8, 10-12, and 14-19 are also rejected under §103(a) as unpatentable over JP 11-135115 (“*Akagi*”) in view of *Fujimoto*, and claims 2-4, 6-8, 10-12, 14-16 and 18-19 are also rejected under §103(a) as unpatentable over U.S. Patent 6,242,132 (“*Neudecker*”) in view of *Fujimoto*. Independent claims 2 and 10 contain parallel language claiming anode current collector having projections and the projections having an average diameter that ranges from about 3 μm to about 10 μm . Applicant respectfully assert that no piece of art cited by the Patent Office satisfies this limitation.

Applicants assert that the limitations of projections of about 3 μm to about 10 μm are not present in *Fujimoto* or the other art. The Patent Office has conceded that neither *Akagi* nor *Neudecker* teach current collectors having projections, so only *Fujimoto* provides any teaching for the projections. The Patent Office has asserted that *Fujimoto* teaches “the copper particles on the current collector has a maximum width dimension up to 10 μm ,” citing to paragraph [0014] and Figure 1. This statement is an incorrect understanding of what *Fujimoto* discloses. *Fujimoto* teaches the width dimension of the spaces between the irregularities have a dimension of up to 10 μm , i.e. the space between the projections. See [0014]. This disclosure relates directly to the concept described in *Fujimoto* of having space for the cathode active layer to expand and contract without wrinkling or buckling the surface of the electrode. It does not have any relation to the size of the projection. *Fujimoto* teaches nothing with regard to the size of the projection. The only disclosure relevant to the limitation of projection size between 3 μm to 10 μm would be the single fuzzy photomicrograph in Figure 1. Applicants respectfully assert that this photomicrograph does not teach projections of between 3 μm to about 10 μm . Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the rejections with respect to Claims 2-4, 6-8, 10-12, and 14-19 be reconsidered and the rejections be withdrawn.

For the foregoing reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that the present application is in condition for allowance and earnestly solicit reconsideration of same.

Respectfully submitted,

BY 

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